

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEGUCI 02719 072223Z
ACTION SCS-01

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FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 595
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEGUCIGALPA 2719

LIMDIS

EO 11652 N/A
TAGS: PINS, SHUM, CASC, HO
SUBJECT: GOH DEPORTS US PRIEST AND HAITIAN PROFESSOR

REF: (A) 77 TEGUCIGALPA 3917, (B) TEGUCIGALPA 2703, (C) TEGUCIGALPA
2708

1. IN TWO SEPARATE AND PERHAPS UNRELATED ACTIONS, THE GOH HAS DEPORTED U.S. CITIZEN, FATHER EVARISTO BELTRAN AND A HAITIAN PROFESSOR, YVES DORESTAL. ALTHOUGH BOTH WERE REPORTEDLY SENT TO EL SALVADOR, PRESS REPORTS ALLEGE THAT THE BORDER POST AT AMATILLO HAS NO RECORD OF EITHER. IN BELTRAN'S CASE, HOWEVER, HE WAS NOT ACCEPTED BY EL SALVADOR AND WAS PUT ON TODAY'S (JUNE 7) SAHSA FLIGHT TO NEW ORLEANS (REF C).

2. BELTRAN WAS PREVIOUSLY EXPELLED FROM NICARAGUA, APPARENTLY BECAUSE OF HIS CAMPESINO ORGANIZATIONAL ACTIVITIES AND (WE UNDERSTAND) GOH BELIEF THAT HE MAY HAVE BEEN INVOLVED WITH THE FSLN. IN
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PAGE 02 TEGUCI 02719 072223Z

AUGUST, 1977, HE WAS GIVEN 48 HOURS TO LEAVE HONDURAS, ALLEGEDLY BECAUSE OF PRESSURE FROM THE NICARAGUAN GOVERNMENT, WHICH WAS PURPORTEDLY SENSITIVE ABOUT HIS PRESENCE IN DANLI, NEAR THE BORDER (REFTEL PARA 5). THE DEPORTATION ORDER WAS DROPPED UPON CHURCH INTERVENTION AND A POSSIBLE AGREEMENT TO TRANSFER FATHER BELTRAN ELSEWHERE IN HONDURAS. HE REMAINED IN DANLI.

3. PRESS REPORTS ALLEGE THAT BELTRAN WAS EXPELLED FOR ORGANIZING CAMPESINO LAND INVASIONS. THE DIRECTOR OF THE IMMIGRATION OFFICE TOLD EMBOFF THAT BELTRAN WAS DEPORTED BECAUSE HIS RESIDENT PAPERS WERE NOT IN ORDER, BUT ADDED THAT HE HAD BEEN ACTIVE IN CAMPESINO AFFAIRS.

4. THE 33 YEAR OLD DORESTAL TAUGHT PHILOSOPHY AT THE NATIONAL AUTONOMOUS UNIVERSITY (UNAH) AND REPORTEDLY HAD BEEN IN HONDURAS FOR TWO YEARS. HIS DEPORTATION WAS ALLEGEDLY BECAUSE HE TAUGHT "ALIEN DOCTRINES" (DOCTRINAS EXOTICAS). THE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY IS UPSET OVER WHAT IT VIEWS AS A VIOLATION OF UNAH'S AUTONOMY AND IS CONSIDERING WITHDRAWING ITS THREE MEMBERS FROM THE CHIEF OF STATE'S ADVISORY COUNCIL.

5. COMMENT: COINCIDENTIAL OR NOT, THIS GOH MOVE WILL SERVE TO ALIENATE BOTH THE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY AND THE CHURCH, OR AT LEAST THAT PART OF THE CHURCH THAT IS ACTIVIST. WHATEVER THE MOTIVES, THE GOH NO DOUBT FEELS IT HAS ACTED LEGALLY AGAINST FOREIGNERS VIOLATING THE LAW. NEVERTHELESS, IT IS DIFFICULT NOT TO SEE BOTH DEPORTATIONS IN TERMS OF GOH-GON RELATIONS. THE UNIVERSITY, AS A CENTER OF SANDINISTA SUPPORT, HAS BEEN A THORN IN SOMOZA'S SIDE, AND THE GOH HAS PREVIOUSLY FELT THAT FATHER BELTRAN MAINTAINED CONTACTS ON ITS SIDE OF THE BORDER.
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